

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life
Held on September 30, 2005
SGW Campus H 769 10:00am**

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Ms H. Ayouby, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Ms A. Ghabban, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms I. Lacelle, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. R. Lobo, Ms C. Marshall, Ms I. Mort, Mr. O. Moran, Ms B. Mugenyi, Ms C. Reimer, Mr. S. Rosenshein, Ms C. Shaffer, Mr. P. Schiefke

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms K. Hedrich, Dr. M. Mulrennan, Ms. P. Posius, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms K. Sheahan

ABSENT: Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. D. Gardhouse, Ms L. Stanbra, Ms L. Toscano

DELEGATES: Ms D. Gleason for Ms. K. Hedrich, Mr. J.M. Edwards for Mr. W. Curran, Ms. L. Mahabir for Ms. P. Posius

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One item was added to the agenda under New Business: Student Services and Dean of Students Year-end Statement for 2004-2005.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Dr. Graub, and seconded by Ms Drew.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Pruden welcomed everyone to the first meeting of CCSL. He suggested a “go-around” the table of introductions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF April 1, 2005

Mr. Moran asked that the minutes be amended to read “photocopied” instead of “photocopies” on page 2, Item 4.1, and also that the minutes be amended to read “Mr.” Schiefke on page 4, Item 6.1.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Rosenshein, and seconded by Ms Reimer.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Student Health Initiative/Drug & Alcohol Task Force

The Alcohol and Drug Task Force operates under the authority of the VP Services office and the university's Alcohol policy (VRS 3). Mr. Pruden informed Council that CCSL cannot disband or modify the task force without changing the policy, which would have to be approved at the Board of Governors. Council could propose such a change, but it does not have authority over the task force.

Mr. Pruden suggested that it would be appropriate for CCSL to pursue the creation of a “wellness” sub-committee and invite people outside Council to participate.

Mr. Moran reminded Council that at the last meeting he had offered to investigate what resources are already available for students, staff and faculty at Concordia. He distributed a handout listing the existing resources. He suggested that the Concordia website could offer a page that lists these resources to let people know what's out there. This would also heighten visibility that Concordia has a wellness program.

Mr. Schiefke asked whether Health Services offered CPR courses, and Ms Drew replied that CPR courses are available through Environmental Health and Safety. People who are trained as "First Responders" are offered such a course.

Mr. Moran remarked that the alcohol policy has not been revised since 2002, but that changes have been made on some legal issues since then. He wondered whether the policy should include something about drinking games that take place during Orientation. He also expressed concern that underage students may be participating in these games, since many new students are under eighteen years of age.

Mr. Pruden responded that CCSL can recommend changes but they would have to be taken to the Board of Governors. He proposed that Council begin with creating a sub-committee to address the issues of campus wellness and the drug and alcohol task force. He invited a motion from the floor.

Mr. Schiefke, seconded by Mr. Rosenshein, put forward the following motion:

Be it resolved that CCSL create a standing sub-committee, the Campus Wellness Committee, to examine all issues affecting health and wellness on campus, and coordinate initiatives for same.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Pruden announced that he or his delegate Louyse Lussier, would sit on this committee, and he invited volunteers from Council. Mr. Moran, Ms Reimer and Ms Shaffer volunteered to sit on the committee. Mr. Pruden offered to set up the first meeting in the near future.

4.2 Special Projects Fund

Mr. Pruden informed Council that the surplus funds from 2004-2005 Special Projects Fund were put back into the Student Services budget, to help cover the shortfall due to lower FTEs. This year Council has the same amount to allocate, approximately \$130,000. He explained that Special Projects is a modest fund available to individual students and student groups, and the Student Initiated Fund is a larger fund available for student associations planning long-term initiatives. The CCSL Project Funding Committee includes three undergraduate students and one graduate student. Mr. Pruden asked that the names of student representatives be given to the Dean of Students office as soon as possible. He asked the student representatives to suggest an appropriate date for the first deadline for project applications. Mr. Schiefke suggested October 31, 2005. Mr. Pruden informed Council that his office would put ads in the student newspapers and send memos to all student associations, as well as to faculty departments, to inform them of the fund and the deadline.

Mr. Pruden noted that the CCSL Awards Selection Committee includes two undergraduate students and one graduate student. He asked that the names of these student representatives be given to the Dean of Students office as soon as possible.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Non-Smoking Policy Issue

The Quebec government has set new legislation regarding smoking in and around public buildings. As of January 2006 all bars and restaurants in the province will become non-smoking. Some members of Council had heard that the date has been pushed back to May 2006. Mr. Pruden remarked that to the best of his knowledge, Concordia University will be implementing the new regulations as of January 2006. This also means that people will not be permitted to smoke within nine metres of the doorways and entrances to public buildings. The university will be painting lines and/or putting posts out to indicate the parameters. Mr. Pruden advised Council that the issue to consider is the level of strictness with which Security will be enforcing this regulation.

Mr. Edwards wondered how this might affect passers-by who are not connected to the University but who may happen to be smoking. Could they be penalized?

Mr. Moran noted that smoking in Canada is at an all-time low, partly because of these policies and also because non-smokers are speaking up and not accepting it anymore. People are quitting because they are starting to feel like pariahs and have nowhere to smoke, and in his opinion that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Mr. Pruden asked the CSU representatives how this would impact Reggies. Ms Reimer replied that she cannot speak for CUSA Corp, but her understanding is that they would ban smoking in Reggies starting in January 2006. Mr. Pruden remarked that this could present a difficult situation on the Terrace next spring.

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he will invite Security to come and speak to this question at the next meeting.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

6.1 Orientation

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he has received many letters and calls complaining about excessive noise levels during recent Orientation activities.

Most of the complaints came from residents living close to the Sir George Williams Campus. In addition, faculty members complained about noise levels on the Terrace in the Hall Building interfering with their classes. He suggested that in future Orientation events could be better promoted, particularly to faculty. He would like to ensure that Security enforce controls over excessive sound levels. He noted that he believes Orientation is very important, but at the same time there is an obligation not to interrupt studies. He informed Council that he intends to pursue this issue very seriously, and will begin by meeting individually with the umbrella associations.

Mr. Rosenshein agreed that communication needs to improve, but informed Council that the CSU feels that this year's Orientation was very positive on many levels. Mr. Schiefke assured Council that CSU had met to discuss the implications of drinking games before including them as part of the Orientation events. He stated that these games were voluntary and no one was forced to participate. He also mentioned that if it appeared someone had had too much to drink they were not permitted to participate in further games.

Ms Drew noted that in the first week of classes, three people from Residence went to hospital as a result of excess drinking. She expressed concern that since most students live off-campus, we don't know what problems can occur once they leave campus. We cannot monitor the results of too much drinking. Mr. Lobo stated that alcohol was a big consideration in planning this year's Orientation. He reminded Council that most of the Orientation activities consisted of workshops and seminars, but people tend to hear more about the concerts and events that include alcohol. They offered non-alcoholic beverages and food as well. He noted that there was an "Alternative Frosh" this year for students as well. Ms Reimer

noted that the CSU distributed more flyers announcing workshops than flyers for the concerts. But more students are interested in the concerts.

Dr. Graub mentioned that the New Student Programme had received complaints from parents who felt that Orientation was not accessible to all students, as many are under eighteen and cannot legally drink. It seemed to them that most Orientation activities featured alcohol.

Ms Lacelle reminded Council that the problems can carry beyond Orientation. She has found that after the first several weeks of classes many students are exhausted and have begun to run out of money.

Ms Drew offered to send the CSU some resource material and relevant statistics about drinking games. Mr. Pruden announced that Council would return to this issue over the course of the year.

7. New Business

Mr. Schiefke asked whether Council could discuss the issue of bicycle theft on campus. Mr. Pruden suggested that we table this item to the next meeting.

Mr. Pruden distributed a year-end statement from Student Services and Dean of Students for 2004-2005. He asked everyone to look at it, and we will add it to the agenda for the next meeting. Ms Sheahan was unable to attend today, but she will be sending the Recreation and Athletics year-end statement, which will be circulated it to council before the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting: November 4, 2005 SGW Campus H 769 10am

9. Termination of Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rosenshein and seconded by Ms Reimer.

The motion was carried unanimously